

Appl. No. 10/829,482  
Docket No. 8796E  
Amdt. dated August 30, 2007  
Reply to Office Action mailed on April 30, 2007  
Customer No. 27752

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### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

#### Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) An absorbent article having a first waist region, a second waist region and a crotch region interconnecting the first waist region and second waist region, an article inner surface and an article outer surface, the absorbent article comprising:

a topsheet;

a backsheet;

a fastening device for joining at least a portion of the first waist region with at least a portion of the second waist region, the fastening device including at least one first fastening member, and at least one second fastening member;

the first fastening member is joined to the first waist region, the first fastening member includes,

at least one first tab, the first tab including a first tab inner surface, a first tab outer surface, and a first tab fastening element on to the first tab inner surface,

at least one second tab, the second tab including a second tab inner surface, a second tab outer surface, and a second tab fastening element on the second tab inner surface,

a releasable tab to tab bond between the first tab outer surface and the second tab inner surface, the releasable tab to tab bond having a release load,

at least one second fastening member joined to the second waist region on the article outer surface;

each first tab fastening element and second tab fastening element are configured to provide an operably secure, fastening engagement with the second fastening member, wherein the fastening device includes at least one stored landing zone on the article

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inner surface, a releasable storage fastening bond between the stored landing zone and the first fastening member, the releasable storage fastening bond having a release load that is less than the releasable tab to tab bond release load.

2. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 1, wherein the releasable storage fastening bond is selected from the group comprising adhesives, cohesives, hook materials, loop materials, and combinations thereof.

3. (Original) An absorbent article having a first waist region, a second waist region and a crotch region interconnecting the first waist region and second waist region, an article inner surface and an article outer surface, the absorbent article comprising:

a topsheet;

a backsheet;

a fastening device for joining at least a portion of the first waist region with at least a portion of the second waist region, the fastening device including at least one first fastening member, and at least one second fastening member;

the first fastening member is joined to the first waist region, the first fastening member includes,

at least one first tab, the first tab including a first tab inner surface, a first tab outer surface, and a first tab fastening element on to the first tab inner surface,

at least one second tab, the second tab including a second tab inner surface, a second tab outer surface, and a second tab fastening element on the second tab inner surface,

a releasable tab to tab bond between the first tab outer surface and the second tab inner surface, the releasable tab to tab bond having a release load,

at least one second fastening member joined to the second waist region on the article outer surface;

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each first tab fastening element and second tab fastening element are configured to provide an operably secure, fastening engagement with the second fastening member, wherein a first releasable fastening bond between the first tab fastening element and the second fastening member has a release load that is greater than the releasable tab to tab bond release load.

4. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 3, wherein a second releasable fastening bond between the second tab fastening element and the second fastening member has a release load that is greater than or equal to the first releasable fastening bond release load.

5. (Original) The article of claim 4, wherein the first tab fastening element is a hook material, the second tab fastening element is a second hook material, and the second fastening member includes at least two attachment landing zones of different loop material.

6. (Original) The article of claim 4, wherein the first tab fastening element and attachment landing zone are prefastened.

7. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 3, wherein the releasable combined tab fastening bond is selected from the group comprising adhesives, cohesives, hook materials, loop materials, and combinations thereof.

8. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 3, wherein the first releasable fastening bond is selected from the group comprising adhesives, cohesives, hook materials, loop materials, and combinations thereof.

9. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 3, wherein the second releasable fastening bond is selected from the group comprising adhesives, cohesives, hook materials, loop materials, and combinations thereof.

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10. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 3, wherein the first tab has a first tab length and the second tab has a second tab length, and the second tab length is greater than the first tab length.

11. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 10, wherein the second tab length is equal to the first tab length.

12. (Original) An absorbent article having a first waist region, a second waist region and a crotch region interconnecting the first waist region and second waist region, an article inner surface and an article outer surface, the absorbent article comprising:

- a topsheet;
- a backsheet;
- a fastening device for joining at least a portion of the first waist region with at least a portion of the second waist region, the fastening device including at least one first fastening member, and at least one second fastening member;
- the first fastening member is joined to the first waist region, the first fastening member includes,
  - at least one first tab, the first tab including a first tab inner surface, a first tab outer surface, and a first tab fastening element on to the first tab inner surface,
  - at least one second tab, the second tab including a second tab inner surface, a second tab outer surface, and a second tab fastening element on the second tab inner surface,
  - a releasable tab to tab bond between the first tab outer surface and the second tab inner surface, the releasable tab to tab bond having a release load,
- at least one second fastening member joined to the second waist region on the article outer surface;

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each first tab fastening element and second tab fastening element are configured to provide an operably secure, fastening engagement with the second fastening member, wherein the first fastening member includes a gripping means.

13. (Original) An absorbent article having a first waist region, a second waist region and a crotch region interconnecting the first waist region and second waist region, an article inner surface and an article outer surface, the absorbent article comprising:

- a topsheet;

- a backsheet;

- a fastening device for joining at least a portion of the first waist region with at least a portion of the second waist region, the fastening device including at least one first fastening member, and at least one second fastening member;

- the first fastening member is joined to the first waist region, the first fastening member includes,

- at least one first tab, the first tab including a first tab inner surface, a first tab outer surface, and a first tab fastening element on the first tab inner surface,

- at least one second tab, the second tab including a second tab inner surface, a second tab outer surface, and a second tab fastening element on the second tab inner surface,

- the second fastening member is joined to the second waist region on the article outer surface and includes at least one attachment landing zone; wherein

- when the at least one first tab fastening element and the attachment landing zone are fastened, a first waist hoop is formed,

- wherein the article is positioned at a target article location and the at least one second tab fastening element is fastened to the attachment landing zone, a second waist hoop is formed, a ratio of the second waist hoop to the first waist hoop is from about 0.55 to about 0.95, wherein the article is a diaper, or pull-up.

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14. (Original) An absorbent article having a first waist region, a second waist region and a crotch region interconnecting the first waist region and second waist region, an article inner surface and an article outer surface, the absorbent article comprising:

- a topsheet;
- a backsheet;
- the first waist region and the second waist region are prefastened forming at least one leg opening;
- a fastening device for joining at least a portion of the first waist region with at least a portion of the second waist region, the fastening device including at least one first fastening member, and at least one second fastening member;
  - the first fastening member is joined to the first waist region, the first fastening member includes,
    - at least one first tab, the first tab including a first tab inner surface, a first tab outer surface, and a first tab fastening element on the first tab inner surface,
    - at least one stored landing zone on the article,
    - a releasable storage fastening bond between the stored landing zone and the first fastening member, the releasable storage fastening bond having a release load,
  - the second fastening member is joined to the second waist region on the article outer surface;
- each first tab fastening element is configured to provide an operably secure, fastening engagement with the second fastening member, wherein the first tab and a portion of the second fastening member are permanently prefastened.

15. (Original) An absorbent article having a first waist region, a second waist region and a crotch region interconnecting the first waist region and second waist region, an article inner surface and an article outer surface, the absorbent article comprising:

- a topsheet;
- a backsheet;

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the first waist region and the second waist region are prefastened forming at least one leg opening;

a fastening device for joining at least a portion of the first waist region with at least a portion of the second waist region, the fastening device including at least one first fastening member, and at least one second fastening member;

the first fastening member is joined to the first waist region, the first fastening member includes,

at least one first tab, the first tab including a first tab inner surface, a first tab outer surface, and a first tab fastening element on the first tab inner surface,

at least one stored landing zone on the article,

a releasable storage fastening bond between the stored landing zone and the first fastening member, the releasable storage fastening bond having a release load,

the second fastening member is joined to the second waist region on the article outer surface;

each first tab fastening element is configured to provide an operably secure, fastening engagement with the second fastening member, wherein the first fastening member includes at least one second tab, the second tab including a second tab inner surface, a second tab outer surface, and a second tab fastening member on the second tab inner surface.

16. (Original) The article of claim 15, wherein the second fastening member includes at least two attachment landing zones of different material.

17. (Currently Amended) An absorbent article having a first waist region, a second waist region and a crotch region interconnecting the first waist region and second waist region, an article inner surface and an article outer surface, the absorbent article comprising:

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a topsheet;

a backsheet;

the first waist region and the second waist region are prefastened forming at least one leg opening;

a fastening device for joining at least a portion of the first waist region with at least a portion of the second waist region, the fastening device including at least one first fastening member, and at least one second fastening member;

the first fastening member is joined to the first waist region, the first fastening member includes,

at least one first tab, the first tab including a first tab inner surface, a first tab outer surface, and a first tab fastening element on the first tab inner surface,

at least one stored landing zone on the article,

a releasable storage fastening bond between the stored landing zone and the first fastening member, the releasable storage fastening bond having a release load,

the second fastening member is joined to the second waist region on the article outer surface;

each first tab fastening element is configured to provide an operably secure, fastening engagement with the second fastening member, wherein the first and second waist regions are more than about 10% elastomeric or extensible under a load of about [[80]] 20 grams force/centimeter or greater.

18. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 14, wherein the first tab and the second fastening member are prefastened by a mechanical bond.

19. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 14, wherein at least a portion of the first fastening member is directly joined to the first waist region.



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20. (Previously Presented) An absorbent article having a first waist region, a second waist region and a crotch region interconnecting the first waist region and second waist region, an article inner surface and an article outer surface, the absorbent article comprising:

- a topsheet;
- a backsheet; and
- a fastening device for joining at least a portion of the first waist region with at least a portion of the second waist region, the fastening device including at least one first fastening member, and at least one second fastening member;

the at least one first fastening member is joined to the first waist region, the at least one first fastening member includes,

- at least one first tab, the first tab including a first tab inner surface, a first tab outer surface, and a first tab fastening element on the first tab,
- at least one second tab, the second tab including a second tab inner surface, a second tab outer surface, and a second tab fastening element on the second tab,
- a releasable tab to tab bond between the first tab and the second tab, the releasable tab to tab bond having a release load,

the at least one second fastening member is joined to the second waist region on the article outer surface;

each first tab fastening element and second tab fastening element are configured to provide an operably secure, fastening engagement with the second fastening member, wherein the first fastening member includes a gripping means.

21. (Currently Amended) An absorbent article having a first waist region, a second waist region, and a crotch region interconnecting the first waist region and the second waist region, the absorbent article comprising:

- a topsheet;
- a backsheet;
- a fastening device for joining at least a portion of the first waist region with at least a portion of the second waist region, the fastening device including:

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at least one first fastening member at least partially joined to the first waist region, the first fastening member including a first tab and a second tab partially attached to and extending laterally from the first tab;  
at least one second fastening member at least partially joined to the second waist region; and

at least one stored landing zone;

a releasable mechanical bond between a portion of the first tab and a portion of the at least one second fastening member prefastening the first waist region with the second waist region to form at least one leg opening in the article prior to use; and

a releasable storage fastening bond between a portion of the second tab and the at least one stored landing zone, the releasable storage fastening bond adapted to maintain the first fastening member in a stored position prior to use of the article; wherein the first and second waist regions are more than about 10% elastomeric or extensible under a load of about [[80]] 20 grams force/centimeter or greater.

22. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 21, wherein at least a portion of the at least one first fastening member is directly joined to the first waist region.

23. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 21, wherein the first tab includes a first tab fastening element, and the second tab includes a second tab fastening element.

24. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 23, wherein the first tab fastening element forms the releasable mechanical bond with the at least one second fastening member, and the second tab fastening element forms the releasable storage fastening bond with the at least one stored landing zone.

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25. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 21, wherein the releasable storage fastening bond is formed from materials selected from the group comprising: adhesives, cohesives, hook materials, loop materials, and combinations thereof.

26. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 21, wherein the releasable mechanical bond is created by ultrasonic energy, pressure, thermal energy or a combination thereof.

27. (Currently Amended) An absorbent article having a first waist region, a second waist region, and a crotch region interconnecting the first waist region and the second waist region, the absorbent article comprising:

- a topsheet;

- a backsheet;

- a fastening device for joining at least a portion of the first waist region with at least a portion of the second waist region, the fastening device including:

- two first fastening members, each of the first fastening members having at least a portion joined to the first waist region, and each of the first fastening members including a first tab having a first tab fastening element and a second tab partially attached to and extending laterally from the first tab, the second tab having a second tab fastening element; and
  - a second fastening member having at least a portion joined to the second waist region, the second fastening member having at least one stored landing zone and at least one attachment landing zone;

- a releasable mechanical bond between a portion of each first tab and a respective portion of the second fastening member prefastening the first waist region and the second waist region to form two leg openings and a first waist hoop in the article prior to use; and

- a releasable storage fastening bond between a portion of each second tab and the at least one stored landing zone, the releasable storage fastening bond adapted to maintain each first fastening member in a stored position prior to use of the

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article and to permit each first fastening member to be repositioned from the stored position;  
wherein the first tabs are configured to provide fastening engagement with the attachment landing zone to form a second waist hoop upon being repositioned from the stored position; and  
wherein the first and second waist regions are more than about 10% elastomeric or extensible under a load of about [[80]] 20 grams force/centimeter or greater.

28. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 27, wherein the second waist hoop is smaller than the first waist hoop.

29. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 27, wherein at least a portion of the two first fastening members is directly joined to the first waist region.

30. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 27, wherein the first tab fastening element forms the releasable mechanical bond with the second fastening member, and the second tab fastening element forms the releasable storage fastening bond with the at least one stored landing zone.

31. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 27, wherein the releasable storage fastening bond is formed from materials selected from the group comprising: adhesives, cohesives, hook materials, loop materials, and combinations thereof.

32. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 27, wherein the first releasable mechanical bond is created by ultrasonic energy, pressure, thermal energy or a combination thereof.

33. (Currently Amended) An absorbent article having a first waist region, a second waist region, and a crotch region interconnecting the first waist region and the second waist region, the absorbent article comprising:

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a topsheet;

a backsheet; and

a fastening device for joining at least a portion of the first waist region with at least a portion of the second waist region, the fastening device including:

at least one first fastening member having at least a portion joined to the first waist region, the first fastening member including a first tab and a second tab partially attached to and extending laterally from the first tab;  
at least one second fastening member having at least a portion joined to the second waist region;

a releasable mechanical bond between a portion of the first tab and a portion of the at least one second fastening member prefastening the first waist region and the second waist region to form at least one leg opening in the article prior to use; and

a releasable storage fastening bond between a portion of the second tab and a portion of the at least one second fastening member, the releasable storage fastening bond adapted to maintain the first fastening member in position prior to use;

wherein the first and second waist regions are more than about 10% elastomeric or extensible under a load of about [[80]] 20 grams force/centimeter or greater.

34. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 33, wherein at least a portion of the at least one first fastening member is directly joined to the first waist region.

35. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 33, wherein the at least one first fastening member has an elastic portion and an inelastic portion.

36. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 33, wherein the at least one first fastening member has an extensible portion and a non-extensible portion.

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37. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 33, wherein the first tab includes a first tab fastening element, and the second tab includes a second tab fastening element.

38. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 37, wherein the first tab fastening element forms the releasable mechanical bond and the second tab fastening element forms the releasable storage fastening bond.

39. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 33, wherein the releasable storage fastening bond is formed from materials selected from the group comprising: adhesives, cohesives, hook materials, loop materials, and combinations thereof.

40. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 33, wherein the first releasable mechanical bond is created by ultrasonic energy, pressure, thermal energy or a combination thereof.

41. (Currently Amended) An absorbent article having a first waist region, a second waist region, and a crotch region interconnecting the first waist region and the second waist region, the absorbent article comprising:

- a topsheet;

- a backsheet; and

- a fastening device for joining the first waist region with the second waist region, the fastening device including:

- a first fastening member joined to the first waist region, the first fastening member including a first tab and a second tab partially attached to and extending laterally from the first tab,

- a second fastening member joined to the second waist region;

- a first releasable mechanical bond between the first tab and the second fastening member prefastening the first waist region and the second waist region to form at least one leg opening in the article prior to use; and

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a second releasable bond between the second tab and the second fastening member, the second releasable bond adapted to maintain the first fastening member in position prior to use;

wherein the first and second waist regions extend at least about 10% under a load of about ~~[[80]]~~ 20 grams force/centimeter or greater.

42. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 41, wherein the first tab includes a first fastening element and the second tab includes a second tab fastening element.

43. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 42, wherein the first releasable mechanical bond is between the first tab fastening element and the second fastening member.

44. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 43, wherein the second releasable bond is between the second tab fastening element and the second fastening member.

45. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 41, wherein the first releasable mechanical bond is created by ultrasonic energy, pressure, thermal energy or a combination thereof.

46. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 41, wherein the second releasable bond is formed from materials selected from the group comprising: adhesives, cohesives, hook materials, loop materials, and combinations thereof.

47. (Currently Amended) An absorbent article having a longitudinal axis, a first waist region, a second waist region, and a crotch region interconnecting the first waist region and the second waist region, the absorbent article comprising:

a topsheet;

a backsheet; and

a fastening device for joining at least a portion of the first waist region with at least a portion of the second waist region, the fastening device including at least one first fastening member and at least one second fastening member;

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the at least one first fastening member is joined to the first waist region, the at least one first fastening member includes:

a first tab fastening element and a second tab fastening element on an inner surface of the first fastening member;

the at least one second fastening member is joined to the second waist region, the at least one second fastening member includes:

a first zone and a second zone, the first and second zones are formed on discrete and separate surface portions of the second fastening member;

a releasable mechanical bond between the first tab fastening element and the first zone, the releasable mechanical bond is prefastened to form at least one leg opening; and

a releasable storage fastening bond between a portion of the second tab fastening element and the second zone, the releasable storage fastening bond adapted to maintain at least a portion of the first fastening member in a stored position prior to use;

wherein the first and second waist regions are more than about 10% elastomeric or extensible under a load of about [[80]] 20 grams force/centimeter or greater.

48. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 47, wherein the first zone is disposed a first distance from the longitudinal axis and the second zone is disposed a second distance from the longitudinal axis less than the first distance, the first and second distances measured along the second waist region.